(4) The Elementary & Secondary Education Department of the State Government has a scheme to provide employment to educated widows and abandoned women as teachers.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has advised the State Governments to formulate a time bound programme to establish Swadhar Shelter Homes in urban, rural and remote areas to rehabilitate women in difficult circumstances like widows deserted by their families near religious places, destitutes and deserted women etc. on the basis of number of widows/divorced/separated women of different ages, rural and urban, as per Census 2001 and report of the Sample Registration System brought out by the Registrar General of India.

Differential tariff for electricity

*180 SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to divide the electricity consumption in the country into peak and off-peak hours, with electricity costing cheaper during the off-peak hours; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) The National Electricity Policy seeks to encourge reduction of the difference between electrical power demand during peak periods and off-peak periods in order to reduce the requirements for capacity additions. It states that differential tariff structure for peak and off-peak supply and metering arrangements (Time of Day metering) would be conducive to load management objectives. TOD meters for large consumers with a minimum load of one MVA are sought to encourage in the first instance.

The Tariff Policy requires the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions to introduce two-part tariffs featuring separate fixed and variable charges and time differentiated tariff on priority for large consumers (consumers with demand exceeding 1 MW) within one year. This would also help in flattening the peak and implementing various energy conservation measures.

Wherever such differential tariff is introduced, it would naturally involve higher tariffs during peaking hours and lower tariffs during off-peak hours.